

their "dictatorial attitude" in connection with the formation of the Territorial Nursing Service, in objecting to the enrolment of individual nurses as members of the service. "We, and not the nurses," they say, "must decide who is to serve, and if they shall serve." So far as the large majority of Matrons of the United Kingdom are concerned, the accusation is unmerited. They have enthusiastically co-operated with the War Office, and in the large provincial and Scottish centres invaluable expert work is being gratuitously performed by the busy Matrons of important hospitals in selecting the nurses for the Territorial Hospitals. The policy which would deprive certificated nurses of the right to place their services at the disposal of the Government, and would reduce their status to that of machines and mercenaries, emanates from the London Hospital, and is, at root, the same policy which has inspired the opposition to State Registration. It should be noted that of the Matrons of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools attached, nine are serving either on the Army Nursing Board, the Advisory Board of the Territorial Nursing Service, or the London Committee of this Service.

Miss E. S. Haldane, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board of the above Service, recently told a representative of the press: "There are certainly a few Matrons who think the matter should be left in their hands, but our intention is that the nurses should have the opportunity of volunteering, just as the men do in the case of the Territorial Force. . . . I must admit there is a tendency among some Matrons to say: 'We are willing to supply you with a certain number of nurses in case of need,' without giving their names or allowing the nurses an opportunity of volunteering for themselves. Now, we do not want that; it would not be individual patriotism."

A *matinée* in aid of the funds of the Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation is to be held at the Playhouse on June 22nd by permission of Mr. Cyril Maude. We regret that this Co-operation of male nurses, composed of duly qualified sailors and soldiers, should be made the object of public charity through rummage sales and *matinées*. The co-operations of women nurses are self-supporting, and pay their expenses out of the percentage on the fees earned by the members.

Sir William J. Collins, M.D., Member of Parliament for St. Pancras, W., and President of the Asylum Workers' Association, last week introduced a Bill into the House of Commons,

which was read for a first time, "to provide for superannuation allowances to officers and servants employed in public asylums for the insane in Great Britain and Ireland, and to make other relative provisions."

An important resolution, moved by the Hon. Lady Thorold, and seconded by Mrs. Hotchkiss, was carried at the Annual Meeting of the Lincolnshire Nursing Association, as follows:—

"That the provision of nurses duly qualified as midwives is the only solution of the midwife question in the rural parts of Lincolnshire."

The County Superintendent and Inspector of Midwives, Miss White, supported the resolution, saying she believed it to be the only solution of the question. After April, 1900, no woman might practise as a midwife without holding the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, so that hundreds of mothers would be deprived of the services of women whose kind hearts were often their only recommendation. What was to become of the mothers and babies deprived of this means of help unless nurses were provided? It was the Lincolnshire Nursing Association which must provide the women to do this most womanly of all women's work.

Throughout the agitation for the Midwives' Act we always maintained that the trained obstetric nurse should supersede the untrained midwife, and it is interesting to observe that this view is being endorsed by practical experience.

The following letter, addressed to the Editor, recently appeared in the *East Anglian Daily Times*, from the President of an Association in connection with the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association:—

Sir,—Will you give me space in your columns to make known more widely the opening in life offered to young women by the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association, an Association which has been working successfully in all parts of the country, its object being to bring *skilled* nursing within the reach of poor people in country places? Its nurses are given a *short course of special training, free of charge, and at once begin to earn good wages*. At the expiration of their agreement, which is for 3½ or 4 years, according to the length of training given, the nurse is free to continue to work for the Association at an increased salary, or to take up private or any other form of nursing.

As the work lies mainly among the labouring class, and the nurse lives in the house of the patient, doing everything that is necessary, she must be of the cottager or artisan class; but the work is by no means confined to cottages, so she should also have had some experience of domestic service, in order that she may be equally at home in the house of the farmer, tradesman, or gentleman.

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